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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the species election requirement be withdrawn.

As required under 35 U.S.C. 121, the Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the claims directed to the species of Group A if the species election requirement is not withdrawn. At least claims 1-6, 12-15, and 20-29 are readable on the elected species. Upon allowance of a generic claim, the Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

Applicant believes that no fee is due with this submission. However, if it is determined that a fee is due, please charge the required fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150 (Order No. 9840-053-999). A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 8, 2002

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Wilfred Lam (Reg. No.)

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